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COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau Aken Training Area

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

DATE OF CONTENT _____

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DATE OBTAINED _____

DATE PREPARED 30 June 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 16 May 1953, 35 trucks were unloaded by engineer soldiers at the engineer training site on the Elbe River, about 200 meters upstream from Schlangengrube. The unloaded material included heavy iron T-beams. An undetermined number of pontoons and about 12 pneumatic rafts were seen at the engineer training site.

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3. On 21 May, a column of truck towing a three-axle amphibious vehicle, was seen en route toward Aken.

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4. On 22 May, a bridge was being constructed across the dead branch of the Elbe River between autobahn bridge and Schlangengrube. Pontoons were hauled to the construction site by trucks.

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5. Beginning 15 April, the engineer camp near Aken, south of Rietzmeck-Brambach, was occupied by an engineer unit from Barnburg. the occupation strength at about 2,000 troops. The camp was organized as in 1952. Several one-story brick buildings had been newly built in Jagen (forest section) No 53. The troop quarters, mostly tents, as well as 8 to 10 permanent buildings, which served as officers billets, were in Jagen No 44. Infirmary and hospital were in Jagen No 45. A sizable quantity of logs was stored nearby. The filling station, which consisted of two pumps and an undetermined number of underground tanks, was in Jagen No 52. All the trucks of the unit were parked nearby. The administration building as well as the headquarters building were on hill 56.0. The amphibious vehicles were seen in Jagen No 61, and 5 JS-3 tanks and 11 T-34/85 tanks were in Jagen No 53. The tanks were covered with tarpaulins.² From 7 to 14 May, the bulk of the

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unit was at Rossau for a water exercise. On 14 May, the troops returned, organized in small groups. The trucks carried pontoons, footbridges and beams. During the exercise, small elements of the troops, and the tanks were in the camp.³ On 15 May, an undetermined number of engineer soldiers were seen digging trenches in Jagen No 30, and a large trench system was determined south of Obersee (lake). Every Tuesday, the tanks would leave for practices in the Loedderitz Forest, south of the Kuehnau-Aken road. Between 18 and 25 May, 4 new assault boats and 4 new outboard motors arrived. The boats with the motors underwent test runs on the lake. They had a very high speed. Assault boats of a similar type were determined at a Rossau shipyard.

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6. At about 6 a.m. on 8 May, an engineer column of about 100 to 125 vehicles, including trucks loaded with pontoons, assault boats, bridge sections, logs and cranes; 10 to 15 small amphibious vehicles, and 10 to 15 sedans and jeeps, passed through Dessau, coming from the wooded area near Aken and proceeding toward Rossau. The column included 40 to 50 vehicles which were factory-new.

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7. On 16 May, the water training site southeast of Rossau was occupied by about 2,000 to 2,500 troops. About 180 to 200 tents, mostly 8 to 10-man tents, were observed. The camp had been enlarged toward east as far as Schlangengrube. Several new temporary buildings were observed. One section was divided off and the road to this section was blocked by a barrier. a headquarters was located there. Between 8 to 17 May, no bridge constructions but a large number of three-section pontoons and steel sections were observed. Prior to 13 May, fatigue duty and the construction of low wooden buildings, as well as training in firing and advanced combat training, were observed. After 14 May, ferry construction of three section pontoons and test runs without load were observed almost daily. Between 1 and 16 May, logs were continually trucked to the camp.¹

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8. On 7 May, the water training site at Brambach-Rietmeck was occupied by about 800 troops. About 50 to 60 trucks, loaded with pontoons, were seen.

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1. Comment. refers to the engineer training area east of Rossau, in which the 36th Pan Bridge Regt conducts its summer training as in the preceding years.

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2. Comment. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] unidentified engineer Regiment of the GDFG from Bernburg in this area, which is bordered by the Elbe River, the Aken-Klein Kuehnau road and the straight line between Klein Kuehnau and Brambach. The information on the pin-point location of the regiment in a camp east of Hirschleckerdamm appears credible 25X1
3. Comment. The information [redacted] of paragraphs 5 and 6 indicates that the unidentified engineer regiment of the GDFG from Bernburg conducted a major exercise in the Rossau area about 8 May.

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